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PHILADELPHIA NO. 1 FREE DAILY IN THE

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

Indie rockers Metric are on the move. 18

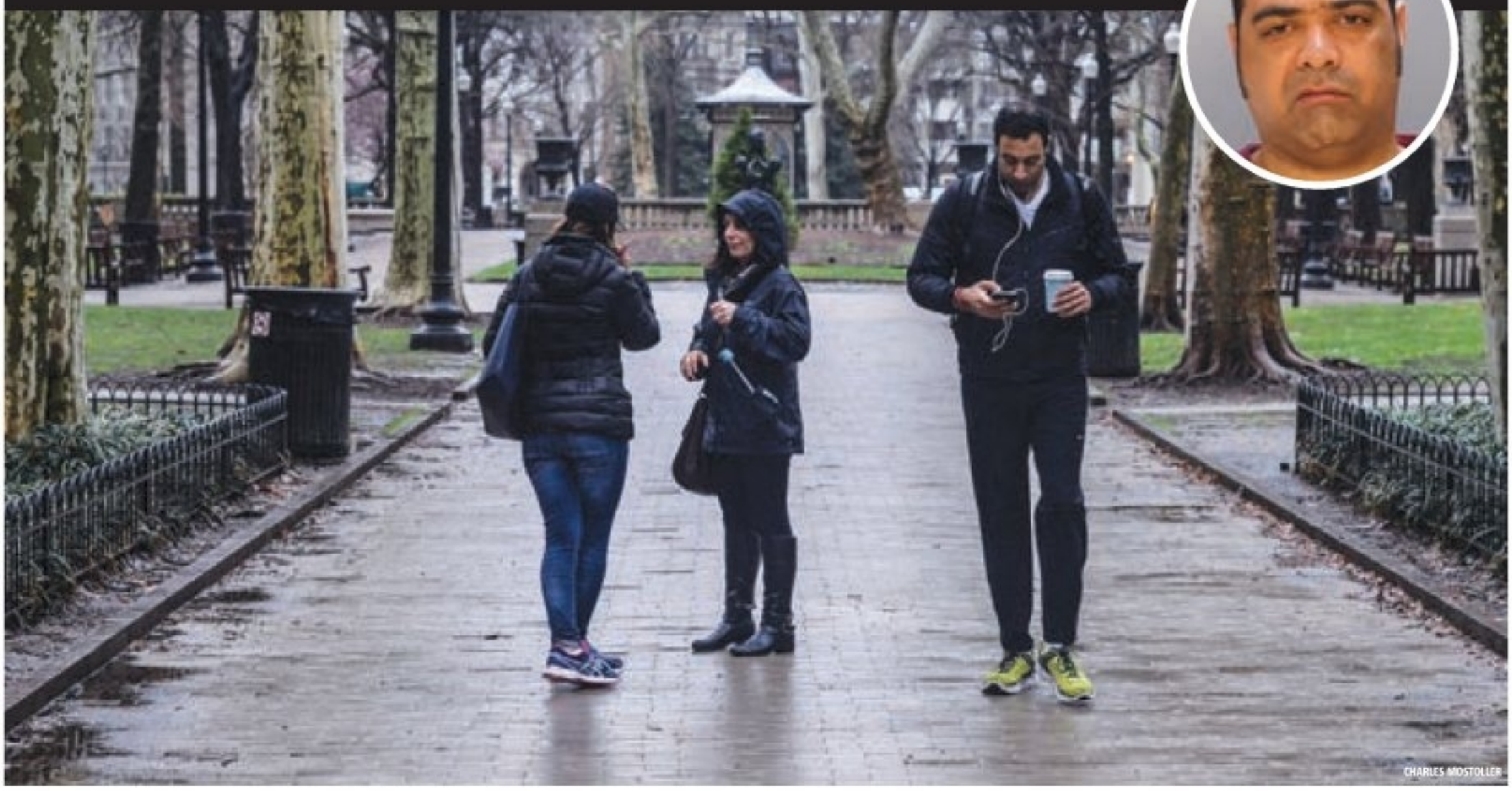
PICK YOUR POISON

Turn to page 26 to fill out your NCAA Tournament bracket.

How to work out like Matt Damon. 23

RITTENHOUSE REELS AFTER DEADLY ATTACK

Business owners in the posh neighborhood are shocked by an uncharacteristic episode of street violence. 2



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3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

VERMONT LEGISLATURE ON TRACK TO BE FIRST TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA

Liberal-leaning Vermont could become the first U.S. state to legalize recreational marijuana use through legislation, rather than by voter initiative, in a move that advocates for the drug said could speed its acceptance across the nation. State representatives this month are set to take up a bill passed by the state Senate in February that would allow adults over 21 to purchase and smoke the drug beginning in 2018. The move follows a year of hearings in the Senate that lawmakers said allowed them to closely consider appropriate limits to place on the drug's use. The current proposal would prohibit users from growing plants at home and ban the sale of edible products containing marijuana extracts. REUTERS

AMTRAK TRAIN DERAILS IN KANSAS, 32 HURT

Seven cars on a Chicago-bound Amtrak passenger train derailed in southwestern Kansas early on Monday, injuring 32 people, officials said. The coaches from Amtrak's' Southwest Chief Train 4 traveling from Los Angeles to Chicago derailed about 20 miles west of Dodge City shortly after midnight, Amtrak said in a statement. There were 131 passengers and 14 crew aboard. Thirty-two passengers were taken to hospitals in Dodge City and Garden City; 29 had been released by midmorning, Amtrak said. Other passengers were taken to a recreation center in Cimarron before being provided alternate transportation. REUTERS

PUTIN ORDERS RUSSIAN FORCES' WITHDRAWAL FROM SYRIA

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he was instructing his armed forces to start pulling out of Syria, more than five months after he ordered the launch of a military operation that shored up his ally, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Putin, at a meeting in the Kremlin with his defense and foreign ministers, said Russian military forces in Syria had largely fulfilled their objectives and ordered an intensification of Russia's diplomatic efforts to broker a peace deal in the country. But the Russian leader signaled Moscow would keep a military presence: He did not give a deadline for the completion of the withdrawal and said Russian forces would stay on at the port of Tartous and at the Hmeymim air base in Syria's Latakia province. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin had telephoned Assad to inform him of the Russian decision. REUTERS

A Parc waiter serves a couple near Rittenhouse Square in the Center City commercial district in Philadelphia. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Rittenhouse Square recoils from murder

Rittenhouse Square neighbors and businesses are still in shock after Sunday's murder.

JENNY DEHUFF
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The normally bright, humming atmosphere of Rittenhouse Square had a dark cloud over it Monday as the city mourned the death of one of its suburban neighbors.

A young man out celebrating St. Patrick's Day with friends fell victim to a senseless slaying at the posh Philadelphia square in the early morning hours Sunday when a homeless man stabbed him in the chest for no apparent reason, according to police.

Forty-year-old Steven Simminger, from Media, has been charged with the murder of 24-year old Colin McGovern, of Churchville, Bucks County. Police brought the charges Monday afternoon.

It was just after 3 a.m. on Sunday when police said officers responded to a radio call for a fight along the 1800 block of West Rittenhouse Square. Upon their arrival, officers reportedly observed McGovern bleeding from multiple stab wounds to the torso. He was rushed to Hahnemann Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 3:36 a.m.

An early investigation revealed that McGovern and his friends were involved in a verbal altercation with Simminger over the Simminger wearing a New Jersey Devils baseball cap. The fight reportedly escalated quickly and resulted in Simminger pulling a knife.

Nicole Bell is the general manager of Dandelion, a restaurant on Rittenhouse Square at Sansom Street. She told Metro that only two weeks ago, she was walking home from work one night along the 1900 block of Sansom Street around 8:30 p.m. when she encountered an unknown male 10 to 15 feet away from her walking toward her on the sidewalk.

She said that just as she was about to pass him, she looked up and saw him take his hand out of his pocket. That's when he punched her smack in the face, Bell said.

Bell said this attack was unprovoked and her assailant did not look homeless, but he fled in an unknown direction and she fell into the street. A good Samaritan came over to her aid and helped her call 911.

"I walk past people all the time and now I flinch, because I never saw this coming," said Bell.

"There were no warning signs that he was going to do that. Everybody I look at now. ... I don't walk down Sansom Street anymore and I walk directly home. I'll even take a cab home, and I only live two and a half blocks away from work."

Carol Serena, another general manager of a restaurant on Rittenhouse Square, Parc, said that there has been a lot of speculation from residents who live on the square about what happened early Sunday morning.

"It was Erin express. There was a tremendous amount of drinking going on in the city. Hey, I'm a New Yorker and I'm all about it. I love St. Paddy's Day better than anyone," she said.

"This young kid, he didn't do anything wrong. Whoever this person was, I'm sure he wasn't affiliated with anyone around Rittenhouse. It's a very sad thing that happened. A lot of people think Rittenhouse should be devoid of anything terrible, but this type of thing shouldn't happen anywhere."

> *"A lot of people think Rittenhouse should be devoid of anything terrible, but this type of thing shouldn't happen anywhere."*
>
> Serena

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Mayor bets on soda tax economics

Kenney's finance team justified his soda tax Monday by predicting the decline of soda consumption over the next few years.

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letters@metro.us

Mayor Jim Kenney's money-management team said Monday morning that regardless of the implementation of a citywide three-cent tax on soda — projections show consumption is going down — and for that reason alone, taxation makes sense.

Marisa Waxman, the mayor's Deputy Commissioner for Policy & Analysis, conducted a briefing with the media Monday intended to spell out the methodology behind how the mayor arrived at his three-cent-per-ounce tax on sugary drinks and offer some insight into how the plan would fare in five to 10 years, should it be granted approval.

The mayor projects $47.9 million in soda tax revenues generated over the first six months of collections beginning Jan. 1, 2017. If soda consumption declines and tax compliance improves over the next five years, Kenney's people predict $432 million in revenues generated for the city. With this money, he intends to fund universal pre-K, community schools, enhancements to parks and rec centers around town and other city improvement projects.

The administration looked at several studies — the Rudd Center at the University of Connecticut, which projects revenues for cities and states that tax sugary drinks. It also looked at Berkeley, California, which has a similar tax, as well as parts in Mexico, where sugary drinks taxes are in place.

Waxman said the administration used UConn's data to evaluate Philadelphia's current consumption level, which came out to be about 7.8 billion ounces of soda per year. Once Kenney and his team were able to evaluate how much soda Philadelphians were drinking, then they were able to configure something called the "price elasticity."

Mayor Jim Kenney has proposed a 3-cent-per-ounce tax on sugary sodas. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

"What price elasticity means is that you're trying to figure out — what is the change in purchasing behavior based on a change in price," said Waxman.

"If the price of something goes up, what happens to consumption? Do people continue to buy the same amount because they need this item? Is it inelastic and whatever the price is, people are going to pay? Or is there a change in purchasing patterns as a result of the price?"

Waxman said their analysis showed that whatever the increase in soda price is, that is then the decreased percentage in consumption. That's how they came to justify a three-pennies-per-ounce tax on soda.

"We know there's been a two-decade-long trend towards reduced soda consumption and sugary beverage consumption overall," said Waxman.

"So we built in a 1 percent reduction annually based on looking at a couple different studies that looked at a couple different market segments and age ranges. We felt comfortable that even without a tax, we could expect a decline in sugary beverage consumption in Philadelphia within the coming years."

Frank Keel represents Teamsters Local 830, union members who drive soda trucks who are part of a coalition fighting the soda tax. In their view, the less soda that's sold, the less trucks are needed, then more union jobs are lost.

"Look at Baltimore. They instituted a similar tax on the soda plant that was there … 287 jobs were lost," said Keel.

"We're looking at something probably four-fold if it goes through here in terms of job loss. We're going to dig in. We've beaten this twice in the past and we have every reason to believe it this time."

In 2012, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake succeeded in getting a two-cent-per-bottle tax passed on bottled water, soda and artifically flavored beverages. That's different from what Kenney has proposed.

Council has to approve the bill.

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FRED BEANS REPEATS HISTORIC USED CAR SALE

Doylestown, PA – Fred Beans, CEO and founder of the Fred Beans Automotive Group located in Doylestown, PA, has announced a **ONE DAY SALE** on Saturday, March 19th at 9:00AM, where pre-owned vehicles will be sold for as low as **$999**.* This sale is being held due to overwhelming public demand. Cars will be clearly marked, so come early for the best selection. This is a **ONE DAY ONLY** sale designed to get the local community driving again.

Fred Beans' pre-owned inventory levels need to be reduced to make room for shipments of new models arriving daily. As a result, **all 8 Fred Beans Doylestown locations are selling these overstocked pre-owned vehicles to the public at drastic discounts in an attempt to clear excess inventory**.

Along with this huge variety of pre-owned vehicles, the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships in Doylestown features new Ford, Lincoln, Mitsubishi, Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Hyundai, Nissan, Subaru, Chevrolet, Cadillac, Buick, and GMC vehicles.

Fred Beans believes reviving the economy starts at home, and changing things locally will lead to changing things nationally.

Along with the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships' extra inventory, additional vehicles have been acquired at incredible prices for this sale from various banks, repossession companies, auto auctions, credit unions, lease companies, and rental companies.

The sale will make pre-owned vehicles available for as low as **$999**,* prices not normally offered to the general public. According to Fred Beans, ***"We want to give our customers a reason to believe in the local economy again. Someone has to look out for their best interest."***

Customers are encouraged to arrive and register by 8:15AM to inspect the entire inventory and find the car that's right for them. Every vehicle will be cleaned, detailed, and fully prepared for instant delivery. On the evening of March 18th, after the close of business, Mr. Beans and his team will mark the special sale price on each and every vehicle. Because Fred Beans' customers are feeling the credit crunch right now, the Fred Beans Automotive Group has given the dealerships' financing managers the resources necessary to get most customers' credit approved on the spot.

The Fred Beans Family of Dealerships has $10 million in lending power, the result of over 50 years of strong relationships with the area's leading lenders. This means that customers with a less-than-perfect credit history can have their credit approved and drive home a quality pre-owned car, truck, or SUV by lunchtime on Saturday.

Even if a customer's credit report shows a bankruptcy, divorce, tax lien, slow payment history, missed payment, or repossession or if a customer is a first-time buyer, Fred Beans may get them approved.

This special **ONE DAY ONLY** sale will be held at all 8 Fred Beans Doylestown locations this Saturday, March 19th at 9:00AM.

Pre-owned vehicles will be sold for as low as $999.* Customers are encouraged to arrive and register by 8:15AM for the start of inspection. Incredible sale prices, starting as low as **$999**,* will be posted no later than 8:00AM. All vehicles will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. The Fred Beans Family of Dealerships is expecting a high volume of customers for this sale, so be sure to reserve your spot early.

Customers wishing to trade in a vehicle are asked to bring their title or payment book for immediate delivery. Fred Beans will even pay off your trade-in in full, no matter how much you still owe on it.**

Most of these surplus pre-owned vehicles will get sent directly to auto auctions for liquidation. So if anyone has been thinking about purchasing a good, clean, dependable pre-owned car, truck, van, or sport utility vehicle, don't miss this special **ONE DAY ONLY** sale.

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For more information about this sale and directions to our locations, please visit us online at **www.999sale.com or call 855-656-0699**

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Ex-guard gets time for selling Oxy to inmates

Former corrections officer Joseph Romano, who received a 30-month sentence, will remain in solitary confinement for his safety's sake.

JENNY DEHUFF
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

A former corrections officer who pleaded guilty to slipping OxyContin pills to inmates in exchange for cash was sentenced to 30 months in prison Monday.

Joseph Romano, 31, of Philadelphia, will spend the next two and a half years in solitary confinement followed by three years' probation for engaging in what prosecutors called "the very function he was trusted to prevent."

"He was a prison guard. He was selling narcotics in prison," U.S. District Court Judge Paul Diamond said before handing down his sentence.

In December, Romano pleaded guilty to attempted extortion and two counts of attempted distribution of controlled substances. This was his first encounter with the law and during his moment of allocution, he acknowledged his crimes.

"I have a long road ahead of me. I want to focus on my recovery. This is the one and only time I've ever dealt with legal issues and I will never see the inside of a courtroom again," Romano said.

Romano's entire family was in federal court for the sentencing Monday, including the mother of his 6-month-old baby.

Defense attorney Maggie Grasso argued her client had been struggling with a physical addiction to OxyContin himself and had cooperated with the government from the very beginning of the investigation. Romano had worked at the Philadelphia Industrial Correctional Center on State Road in Holmesburg for nine years.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin R. Brenner speaks to the media after the sentencing hearing. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

His early confession, combined with a federal sting operation, led to the indictments of five other corrections officers within the Philadelphia Prison System, who were also charged with supplying drugs and cell phones to inmates in exchange for cash.

"He knew the dangers better than anyone," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin R. Brenner.

Brenner added that before Romano would go to work, he would meet with an individual who he believed to be an associate of a particular inmate and pick up the pills outside the prison. He would then smuggle the pills past prison security and deliver them directly to the inmate.

"It was a recipe for disaster," Brenner said. "Prisons Commissioner Louis Giorla submitted a letter to the court describing how bringing contraband into prison puts corrections officers in harm's way. Predators and sociopaths become empowered and when the smuggler is a corrections officer, it shakes morale to its core."

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BRIEF

Truck strikes plane at Philadelphia airport

One person was injured after a service vehicle struck a plane at Philadelphia International Airport on Monday, reports said.

The crash happened around 12:30 p.m. at American Eagle's Gate F38, according to Philly.com.

Media reports said that the injured driver, who worked at the airport, was taken to the hospital. His condition wasn't immediately known. It also wasn't clear what caused the accident.

"We were all standing there, and I just saw a car hitting the back of the plane," witness Tony Richards told Philly.com. "All I know is I saw him hit it — boom! — and glass shattered everywhere."

The plane was empty when the vehicle hit, according to 6ABC. CRISTABELLE TUMOLA

A plane lands at Philadelphia International Airport. FILE PHOTO

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ATV FILE PHOTO

Latest ATV crackdown nets 53 bikes, three arrests

Police indicated they chose to begin the crackdown ahead of the warmer weather.

JASON NUCKOLLS
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letters@metro.us

Philadelphia police started an ATV and dirt bike crackdown that has netted 53 vehicles and resulted in three arrests so far.

On Sunday, Philadelphia police began an initiative coordinated by citywide officials to seize illegally driven ATVs and dirt bikes, NBC10 has reported. Two of the 53 seized vehicles had been reported stolen.

Dirt bikes and ATVs, despite being illegal on city streets, are popular during Philadelphia's warmer spring and summer months, NBC added. During a Sunday news conference, police indicated they chose to begin the crackdown ahead of the warmer weather.

"We have a lot of complaints from the community. It's complete lawlessness. These individuals run up and down the sidewalk," Philadelphia Police Chief Inspector Dennis Wilson was quoted by 6ABC, which added that authorities made three arrests during the crackdown. "People are afraid to let their children play in areas where the dirt bikes are riding."

Dirt bikes and ATVs are illegal in the city unless they are ridden only on private property, according to ABC.

"We have people who die from these every year and it's very dangerous for people walking on the sidewalks when they come ripping up, and people have to dive out of the way," Chief Inspector Wilson was quoted by NBC.

Police encouraged residents to call 911 if they see any illegal activity in their neighborhoods, ABC added.

"We have a lot of complaints from the community. It's complete lawlessness. These individuals run up and down the sidewalk."

Wilson

‘Nazi dad’ arrested for aggravated assault

Police arrested a New Jersey man — who is being referred to in the media as “Nazi dad” — last week after being wanted on an aggravated assault charge since last year.

Isidore Heath Campbell from Milford, New Jersey, was taken into custody on March 10 by police in Shippensburg Pennsylvania, according to ABC.

Campbell was listed as one of Hunterdon County’s most wanted and was being sought on an aggravated assault charge filed by his fiancée — who later attempted to withdraw the charge but couldn’t, ABC reported.

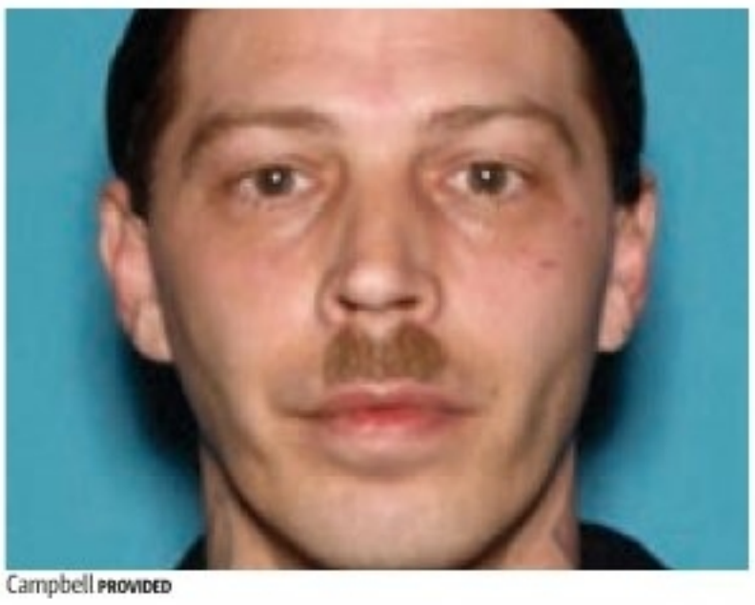
The 42-year-old was arrested at a Sunoco gas station, according to the New York Daily News, after someone recognized him and alerted police.

Campbell — who reportedly wears Nazi attire and has a Hitler-like moustache — made headlines in 2008 when he attempted to order a cake for his son’s birthday that said “Happy Birthday Adolf Hitler,” the Daily News reported. The baker refused to go through with the order.

The Daily News added that Campbell’s fiancée — who identified herself as Bethanie Zito — said she made up the assault and injured herself during the argument in October of last year.

Campbell was held in Cumberland County jail and will be extradited to New Jersey where he faces charges.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO



Campbell PROVIDED

Judge denies Knott’s jail time request

The judge said the 25-year-old’s initial prison term is “appropriate” for the crime.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Knott PROVIDED

A Philadelphia judge has shot down Kathryn Knott’s plea for a reduced prison sentence a month after she was convicted for her role in a Center City gay bashing, according to reports.

Knott was sentenced in early February to five to 10 months in prison after being convicted of simple assault and reckless endangerment in the assault of a gay couple in September 2014.

A week after being sentenced, the 25-year-old requested the judge reconsider her punishment claiming she had “learned a lot in 18 months.”

However, on Monday, according to Philly.com, Common Pleas Judge Roxanne Covington denied the request, calling Knott’s sentence “appropriate” and told Knott that she was still “in need of correction.”

The judge added that reducing the sentence would “depreciate the seriousness of the crimes,” Philly.com reported.

Covington said that she found “complete disconnect” between statements made by Knott and the seriousness of the crimes, according to ABC.

Knott’s lawyer, William Brennan, said his client deserves the probation the two men — who were with Knott when the attacked happened — received, ABC reported. However, the judge said Knott denied the plea offer and decided to go to trial.

During the attack, Knott was part of a group with Phillip Williams and Kevin Harrigan. The three attacked a gay couple after meeting them near 13th and Chancellor streets. One of the victims suffered a broken orbital bone and broken jaw, which was wired shut for weeks.

Williams and Harrigan pleaded guilty to assault under a negotiated plea deal.

The two men received no jail time and were banned from Center City. Williams was hit with five years of probation and 200 hours of community service at a gay, lesbian and transgender organization. Harrigan got three years of probation and community service.

Shadeen Francis
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Apple, McDonald's, Google and IKEA to face EU lawmakers over tax deals

McDonald's GETTY IMAGES

Apple, Google, McDonald's and IKEA will be asked about their European tax deals on Wednesday as EU lawmakers ratchet up the pressure on multinationals to pay more tax on their profits locally.

The hearing, organized by the European Parliament's tax committee, follows a similar event in November last year when Anheuser-Busch InBev, HSBC, Google and eight other companies were quizzed on the same subject.

While the committee has no power to order changes, the hearing reflects the political concerns over multinationals avoiding local tax liabilities.

The European Commission is also investigating several cases to see if they breach the bloc's state aid rules which prohibit EU countries from giving some companies an unfair advantage by making special deals on tax.

Starbucks declined to take part because it has challenged a European Commission order to the Dutch authorities to recover up to 30 million euros in back taxes, the European Parliament said in a statement.

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, which is also appealing against an EU finding against its tax deal with Luxembourg, also turned down the invitation.

The head of Inter IKEA Group, Soren Hansen, will argue the Swedish furniture retailer's case. Inter IKEA Group owns the intellectual property rights under which its retailers operate.

The Parliament's Green party last month accused IKEA of avoided paying some 1 billion euros in taxes from 2009 to 2014 because it channeled royalty income through a Dutch company and possibly through Luxembourg and Liechtenstein.

All the companies have previously said they comply with EU tax rules.

REUTERS

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Shooting suspect says Uber app controlled him: Local TV reports

Jason Dalton is charged with shooting eight people, killing six of them, over a five-hour period on Feb. 20, in between driving customers for the Uber car service.

The Uber driver in Michigan charged with murdering six people last month in a shooting spree told investigators that the ride-sharing app had the ability to "take over" his body, a local television station reported on Monday.

The Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department provided WZZM-TV around 100 pages worth of documents related to the deadly rampage in which Jason Dalton is charged in response to a Freedom of Information Act request.

Reuters could not independently verify the report. The Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney's Office declined to release the documents when asked on Monday. Dalton's attorney, Eusebio Solis, could not immediately be reached to comment.

Dalton, 45, told police that when he would press a button on his phone screen, the horned cow head of a devil would appear and give him an assignment that he said would "literally take over" his body, WZZM reported.

"When I logged onto site [the Uber app], it started making me feel like a puppet," Dalton told police during an interview, according to WZZM.

Jason Dalton GETTY IMAGES

The broadcaster reported that Dalton told his wife during the night of the shooting spree that she would not be able to go to work and their children would not be able to go to school, and that if she turned on the news, she would know why.

Prosecutors said earlier this month that a judge granted a request by Dalton's attorney for a competency exam. REUTERS

Three brothers in custody in Maryland police officer slaying

Three brothers were in custody on Monday in connection with the fatal shooting of a Washington-area police officer, authorities said.

Prince George's County Police Officer First Class Jacai Colson, 28, was shot in an exchange of fire with a gunman who began shooting outside police headquarters on Sunday, apparently without provocation.

The attack left the suspected gunman wounded, police said. The second suspect was believed to have accompanied the shooter but left the scene before the shooting occurred, according to investigators.

The third suspect's alleged role was unclear. The brothers' names have not been released.

Jacai Colson /PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT HANDOUT

"The evidence shows the gunman intended to die in a battle with police," the Prince George's department said on Twitter. A police spokesman declined to elaborate but said more details would be released at a press conference on Tuesday.

Colson was a four-year veteran and had been a narcotics detective in Prince George's County, which borders the District of Columbia.

Investigators are looking for a motive, police said.

Police Chief Henry Stawinski told reporters on Sunday that the gunman apparently opened fire on the first officer he saw outside the headquarters' district station in Landover. He continued shooting as Colson and other officers responded, the chief said.

The shooting was the second fatal attack on law enforcement officers in the area in little more than a month. Two Harford County sheriff's deputies were shot by a gunman at a restaurant near Baltimore on Feb. 10. REUTERS

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McClendon driving at 88 mph ahead of fatal crash: Police

The death of the energy entrepreneur on March 2 shocked the oil and gas industry less than a day after he was indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice on allegations of violating antitrust rules by rigging bids for land.

Aubrey McClendon, the former chief executive of Chesapeake Energy Corp., was driving well above the speed limit at roughly 88 miles per hour before he slammed into a bridge abutment earlier this month and died, Oklahoma City police said on Monday.

Just after the indictment, McClendon's largest investor, the private equity fund Energy & Minerals Group of Houston, halted all new business with him, depriving him of a key source of funding.

McClendon was traveling above the 50 mph speed limit before he collided with the bridge, causing his vehicle to rotate seven feet (two meters) counter-clockwise, Oklahoma City Police Chief Bill Citty said at a press conference to release findings from the accident investigation.

McClendon's car collided with the bridge at 78 mph, slowing down after three wheels left the roadway for the dirt shoulder.

A toxicology report and official cause of death would take several more weeks at least, he said. The fatal accident has raised questions about whether the executive took his own life.

Aubrey McClendon GETTY IMAGES

McClendon, who was driving his natural gas-powered Chevy Tahoe, was not being pursued and was not chasing anyone, Citty said.

While he was not wearing a seatbelt, such a precaution would not have mattered given McClendon's rate of speed, Citty said.

"Him not wearing a seatbelt made absolutely no difference."
Citty

McClendon suffered multiple blunt force trauma to his head and torso and likely was dead before a fire engulfed his vehicle and charred his body, Citty said.

The former Chesapeake co-founder did tap his brakes twice after he drove 189 feet left of the center lane, but the actions did not slow his vehicle down. McClendon did not touch the brakes at all in the 31 feet before hitting the bridge, Citty said, citing data retrieved from the Tahoe's black box data recorder.

"I'm not going to speculate on what that tapping of the brake could mean. It could mean a lot of different things," Citty said. REUTERS

BRIEF

VW institutional investors file $3.61 billion suit in Germany

Almost 300 institutional investors in Volkswagen have filed a multibillion euro suit against the carmaker for what they see as breaches of its capital markets duty in the emissions scandal, the law firm representing them said.

The lawsuit, for damages of 3.256 billion euro ($3.61 billion), was filed at a regional court in Braunschweig in VW's home state of Lower Saxony on Monday and is being brought by 278 investors from all over the world, including German insurers and U.S. pension fund Calpers.

Law firm TISAB said the lawsuit was over whether VW neglected its duty to the capital markets regarding the timeframe between June 2008 and Sept. 18, 2015.

A spokesman for VW said the carmaker could not comment because it had not been sent the suit.

Volkswagen earlier this month published an account of the events leading to the violation of U.S. emissions law being publicly announced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. REUTERS

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‘Secret agents of change’ say U.S. intelligence embracing LGBT spies

A U.S. intelligence community that once forced out gays and lesbians for security reasons now sees inclusivity as the best way to protect the country, and seeks to recruit spies from a wider talent pool that includes the LGBT community.

At a session titled America’s LGBT Spies (Secret Agents of Change) held at the South by Southwest tech summit in Austin, Texas, the panelists said for the U.S. intelligence community — with a $60 billion-plus budget and more than 100,000 employees - to attract the best talent, it must embrace diversity.

“We are not the organization of your grandfathers. We have gone from a very dark and closed environment to a very welcoming and open environment,” said Tracey Ballard, technical intelligence officer with the Central Intelligence Agency, who came out as a lesbian in 1988.

Ballard said at that time, agents risked losing their security clearances and their jobs by coming out. She was initially ostracized by the agency she has served and seen evolve over 30 years or so of service.

She said under Cold War thinking, being gay could subject someone to blackmail, and coming out meant someone would be seen as a deviant who could not be trusted. Over the years, the intelligence community has changed to allow people to be themselves.

“We are in a competition with the rest of the companies out there for talent. If we cannot continue to bring in talent, we cannot bring in the best intelligence,” said panelist Kris Gill, global programs manager for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

Central Intelligence Agency
GETTY IMAGES

While individual spy agencies have sometimes made presentations or statements publicly welcoming gay employees, the presentation was the first time the U.S. intelligence community as a whole has done so. REUTERS

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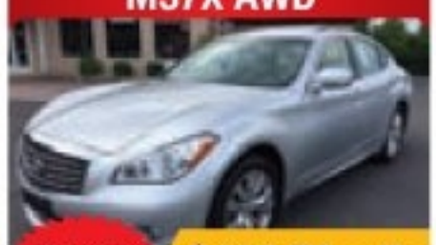
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RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Trump looks set for big wins

GETTY IMAGES

Trump supporters and protesters have clashed at his rallies in recent days, fueling accusations that he has created an ugly atmosphere with his campaign invective against groups such as Mexican immigrants and Muslims.

Donald Trump faced a last day of campaigning on Monday before a crucial round of nominating contests including in Florida and Ohio, where establishment Republicans worked to trip him up.

Trump, who has rejected accusations he is to blame for the tensions, has emerged from the early nominating contests with a clear lead in the number of delegates needed to win the party nomination for the Nov. 8 election.

He is trailed by Ted Cruz, a senator from Texas, and could seize control of the race with big wins in Tuesday's voting in Ohio, Florida, Illinois, Missouri and North Carolina.

Opinion polls also showed him with comfortable leads in all those states, except Ohio, where he is roughly tied with the state's governor, John Kasich.

Kasich, trailing in the delegate count and seen as needing to win in his home state to stay in the race, was getting campaign help on Monday from Mitt Romney, who was the party's 2012 presidential candidate and who delivered a furious attack on Trump this month.

Trump, a real estate magnate and former reality television star, has fired up enthusiastic crowds with his promise to "make America great again." But he has bucked Republican orthodoxy on policies including free trade and offended a range of Americans with his calls to temporarily ban Muslims from the country and deport illegal immigrants.

In Florida, Sen. Marco Rubio, a favorite of the party establishment, has staked his survival in the campaign on winning there in his home state. He has also suggested a tactical vote to stop Trump — encouraging his supporters in Ohio to cast their vote for Kasich.

Trump scheduled appearances in North Carolina, Ohio and Florida on Monday, after several days of events marked by outbreaks of shouting and shoving between supporters and protesters, who decry what they call his bigoted and divisive rhetoric.

Trump canceled a big rally in Chicago on Friday evening over security after protesters swarmed the event, sparking clashes. On Saturday, he was rushed by a man on an Ohio stage and repeatedly blamed Bernie Sanders, a candidate in the Democratic race, for the protesters' actions. REUTERS

Inside Kasich's long-shot strategy to beat Trump for the GOP nomination

Microphone in hand, Republican John Kasich promised the crowd inside a high-tech Ohio factory Saturday that he'll never be beholden to Washington insiders if he wins the White House.

But as he zigzags across the state before Ohio's GOP primary on Tuesday — emboldened by polls showing him edging ahead of rival Donald Trump — Kasich may soon need all the Washington insiders he can get.

Behind the scenes, strategists for Kasich, the Ohio governor, are studying arcane party rules that they believe could offer a path to the Republican nomination if he wins his home state, his aides said.

It is a long-shot strategy, both for Kasich and the anti-Trump forces inside the party. But if fellow GOP candidate Marco Rubio loses his own state of Florida on Tuesday — as polls predict — a surge by Kasich may be the only viable strategy for Republicans looking to stop Trump from getting the 1,237 delegates needed to clinch the nomination.

Republican presidential candidate Ohio Gov. John Kasich GETTY IMAGES

A loss by Rubio, a senator, will almost certainly end his struggling candidacy. If Trump wins both Ohio and Florida, the New York real estate mogul's march to the nomination will be all but assured.

The Kasich camp sees a Rubio loss in Florida opening up a different possibility — the first contested convention held by either party since 1952.

Kasich supporters are betting that an Ohio win will give his candidacy its first real momentum, attracting donors and endorsements. From there, he could score more victories in upcoming primaries in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Wisconsin, Connecticut and California, states where Kasich polls favorably. REUTERS

"The plan is to win Ohio, and some other states, and if that happens, nobody is going to have enough delegates to win the nomination on the first ballot."

John Weaver, Kasich's chief campaign strategist

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Zendaya shuts down another critic

When will comedians and commentators learn that if you come for Zendaya, expect to lose? Apparently that was a lesson that needed to be taught to "Difficult People" star Julie Klausner, who took issue with Zendaya's appearance accepting an award at the 2016 Kids' Choice Awards, calling the 19-year-old "K.C. Undercover" star a "thinspo model for your impressionable tweens" on Twitter. "You don't have to have an eating disorder to attend the Kids' Choice Awards … but it helps," Klausner added. Zendaya, never one to shy away from a social media squabble, offered to "educate" Klausner before siccing her 6.39 million Twitter followers on the comedian. "Now, everyone go look in the mirror at their beautiful body and love that s—," she added.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Richard Simmons is not a prisoner in his own home

A story started making the rounds this weekend that ebullient fitness guru Richard Simmons was a prisoner in his own home, his entire life being controlled by parties taking advantage of his fragile mental and physical state. But he thinks that story's just plain nuts.

"No one is holding me in my house as a hostage," Simmons tells the "Today" show via telephone. "You know, I do what I want to do as I've always done, so people should sort of just believe what I have to say because, like, I'm Richard Simmons." That's pretty tough logic to argue with. As for whether his longtime housekeeper was keeping him prisoner and controlling all aspects of his life, keeping friends away? "That's just very silly," he insists. "Teresa Reveles has been with me for 30 years. It's almost like we're a married couple." So … yes? But OK, Richard, are you not free to speak freely? Is Teresa in the room with you? Just give us some sort of signal if you're in distress.

Ian McShane has harsh words for 'Game of Thrones' spoiler scolds

Ian McShane knows that he's given away some major spoilers about his role on the new season of "Game of Thrones," but he honestly can't be bothered about it, so calm down, nerds. "You say the slightest thing and the Internet goes ape," McShane tells the Telegraph. "I was accused of giving the plot away, but I just think, get a f—ing life. It's only t—s and dragons." Which, incidentally, was HBO's suggestion to George R.R. Martin as an alternate title for the series. And I don't know, wouldn't the world be a slightly better place if we were discussing possible spoilers for the new season of "Only T—s and Dragons" instead?

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"HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT"

The down and out tend to be glamorized or pitied. Not in Ben and Joshua Safdie's indie, which is so authentic it was written by an actual recovering addict. Author Arielle Holmes also plays a version of herself: a ferocious young woman who steamrolls through a barely eked-out life. It's honest but not boastful or self-righteous, and sometimes even very funny — just like real life, though even that makes it sound precious, which it amazingly is not.

Ben and Joshua Safdie's "Heaven Knows What" shows NYC's young, homeless and addicted. RADIUS_TWC

"MAN UP"

The romantic-comedy is dying, and perhaps only indies can save it. Like last year's "Sleeping with Other People," this British number — in which Lake Bell and Simon Pegg go on an accidental date — both dismantles cliches and embraces them. It's more of a rom-com than it sometimes lets on, but at least it's a sharp and prickly one.

Simon Pegg and Lake Bell make for a good, bickering rom-com team in last year's "Man Up." SABAN FILMS

"SCARFACE"

Al Pacino has never been more unhinged than he was in 1983's "Scarface." PROVIDED

Brian De Palma's purple, bloody remake of Howard Hawks' gangster great is now a stone-cold classic. But it's easy to forget it wasn't actually a bomb. It was a big hit — it was just hated and debated, riling many with its excesses: its gargantuan length, its fearless gore and Al Pacino's ridiculously accented turn, chewing not just the scenery but maybe the whole universe. The hip-hop community helped reclaim it, as did another group of fanboys: De Palma nerds. "Scarface" joins the likes of "Phantom of the Paradise," "Blow Out" and "Femme Fatale" as De Palmas whose craft and eccentricity were bound to be appreciated eventually — though here you can also thank Oliver Stone, whose cussy script provided the foundation for three hours of thrilling set pieces.

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Metric's measures for success

Metric is back with a sixth studio album and new tour. NORMAN WONG

It is a sunny, warm winter's day when Canadian indie rock band Metric's tour bus pulls into a one-street town in Oklahoma. But these days, the road veterans who released their sixth studio album, "Pagans in Vegas," last fall, don't take a backwater stop like this for granted.

"We get to see so much of the country and we see how much has been homogenized," says Emily Haines. "We've never had much chance to reflect, because it's always been so go, go, go."

The band has been on what Haines describes as a decade and a half of serendipitous happenings — like working with composer Howard Shore for "Twilight," and director Edgar Wright basing 2010's "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" on Metric. "Brie Larson's character is based on me, supposedly," Haines says.

"This life sounds ridiculous unless you're doing it," she adds about touring. "But we've been doing it for 15 years. I think it might be my life."

She could be right; even in her private life, itchy feet drive her. Haines says while Toronto is "a permanent hub," she's called New York City home for seven years. But that's about to change: "Our block got bought and we all got evicted," she explains. "My guy and I will get a place in Berlin. This has been my second round with New York. I was in Williamsburg and saw that whole shift. I feel you have to either buy in or get out. It's not like gentrification that's the problem, it's the foreign investors who suck the life out of a city."

The band members are up for making the distance work. Haines worked on the new album while she was in Nicaragua and Jimmy Shaw was in Toronto.

"I often have the desire to disappear somewhere," she says. "There's nothing like going into the jungle to get over yourself. While Jimmy is in his studio using all these cool instruments, I'll come back with something raw I've done on a beaten up guitar. He'll have created this whole symphony and the two end up working."

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Dahlak Brathwaite embraces the poetry of life's hard knocks

The hip-hop artist and poet tells us how he turned a stint in rehab into inspiration for his album and stage show, "Spiritrials."

SHAUN BRADY
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Dahlak Brathwaite adapted his album "Spiritrials" for the stage, blending poetry, spoken word and hip-hop. DAHLAK BRATHWAITE

Dahlak Brathwaite was a recent college graduate and a rising star on the hip-hop and slam poetry scene when he was pulled over with a bag of magic mushrooms in his car. In his native California, this meant entering a drug recovery program to avoid a felony conviction.

"This wasn't the path that I had imagined for myself," Brathwaite says. "I wasn't an at-risk youth, I'd never even gotten suspended in high school, and I found myself walking the line of freedom and jail. I had just graduated from college and had to go back and receive a totally different type of education."

Entering a program where he was constantly being told that he was a criminal and a drug addict, Brathwaite even started to believe it himself. Fortunately, he had his art to turn to. He appeared on HBO's "Def Poetry Jam" and the Brave New Voices international poetry slam, and released an album called "Spiritrials" that told his story in hip-hop form.

He's now adapted that album into a stage show that blends music, spoken word poetry and dramatic narrative to relate his own experiences as well as those of people he met in the program. "Instead of coming at it as I may have in the past from an outside perspective, solely as a critic, I bring a very personal perspective, reporting from within the system. It gives me an opportunity to contribute to the national conversation about mass incarceration and the effects of the war on drugs, tying them together with a spiritual aspect that this recovery program inspired within me," Brathwaite tells us.

Brathwaite has begun to take the show into prisons and to teach workshops in the cities where he performs. It's his way of dealing with the arrest's specter, which continues to dog him to this day. "It doesn't just exist as a shadowy figure haunting the back of my brain," he says. "It actually exists as a permanent record that everybody has access to. But instead of letting people project a narrative onto me, I took ownership of it, leaned into it and contributed my voice to my own story. I hope it can be enlightening and enriching to others."

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Notice is hereby given that Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below on **March 18, 2016** at **12:30 PM** located at **12005 Roosevelt Blvd. Philadelphia, Pa 19154, Ph: 215-856-0835.**

Unit 1450 Charles Richards (household items), 409 Ambrose Tommy (household items), B30 Benjamin Foxhill (furniture), 128 Diane Wilburn (point of sale, racks), E13 Alexandra Quiles (furniture/household goods), J1 Jack Montgomery (queen bed, boxes, chairs, stereo), A5 Lorraine Knauss (household goods), 504 Evan Grammenos (household items).

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

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Metro Self Storage

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Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on **March 18, 2016** at **11:00AM** at the Extra Space Storage facility located at: **6204 Oxford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111, 215-744-1563.** The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances.

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3 Season yogurt
Remove any large stems from cilantro. Chop cilantro and mix with yogurt in a small bowl. Zest 1 lime and add to bowl, along with juice of both limes; season to taste with salt and pepper.

4 Sear steak
Meanwhile, heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large skillet over high. Season steak with salt and pepper and add to pan. Cook until a deep crust has formed, about 3 minutes.

5 Finish steak and scallions
Flip and add scallions, turning to coat in fat, and continue to cook until steak is deeply browned and scallions are charred and tender, about 3 minutes more.

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433 - Dr. Joseph Manusov (household), 506 - Claire Hoover (household), 549 - Lamar Robinson (household, electronics), 809 - Sarah Ennis (household), 233 - Rosemary L Friel (household), 429 - Christian Burrell (household), 90 - Audrey Ash (furniture, boxes), 245 - Shahida Jefferson (household clothes), 317 - Warren Salley (furniture, household, shoes), 266 - Carla Mcfadden (household), 468 - Tracy Priore (household, electronics), 443 - Nicholas Wyatt (household, furniture clothes), 79 - Patrice R Armour (household)

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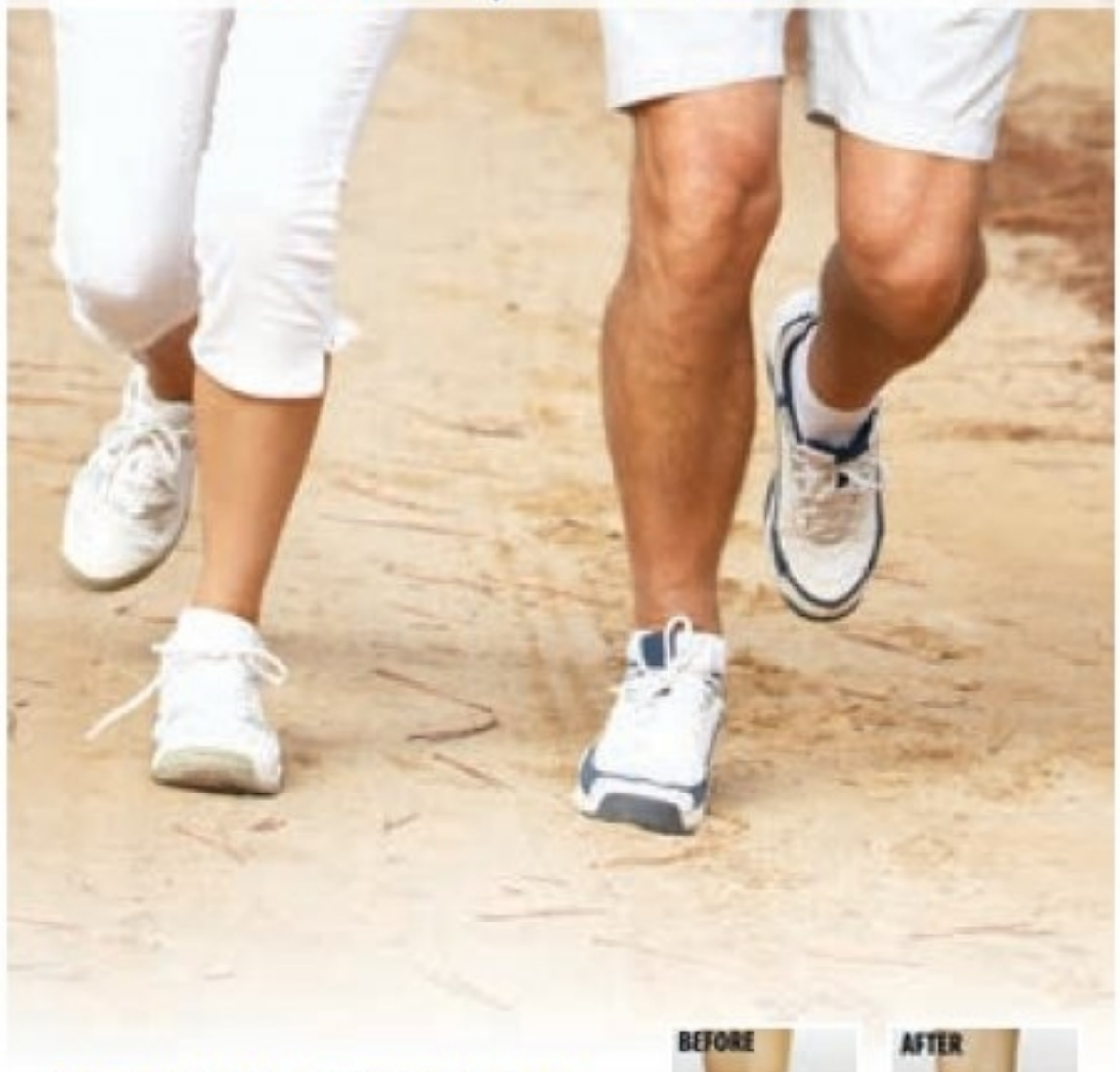

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From 'Gremlins' to Jesus

The guy behind all your childhood movies had a good reason to produce "The Young Messiah."

MATT PRIGGE
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Chris Columbus wrote "Gremlins." He directed "Home Alone," "Mrs. Doubtfire" and the first two "Harry Potter" films. None of these suggest he'd be involved in a movie about the 7-year-old Jesus Christ. And yet the filmmaker is a producer on "The Young Messiah," a drama that follows the boy Christ (played by Adam Greaves-Neal) on the cusp of learning he's not an average boy.

"Trust me, I'm not going into the business of faith-based films," Columbus tells us. "I just responded to the story."

Columbus says he's always been fascinated by Jesus. It wasn't just 12 years of Catholic school. "Imagine me as a kid reading Marvel comics and being taught about Jesus. It was like he was almost part of the same world, a little bit, only he's the best one," he says. "He was like the first superhero."

Columbus was a movie freak, so inevitably he would see all the biblical epics, including the ones about Jesus' life, like 1961's "King of Kings" and 1965's "The Greatest Story Ever Told." But he always took issue with them.

Adam Greaves-Neal (with Sara Lazzaro as Mary) plays the 7-year-old Jesus of Nazareth in "The Young Messiah." FOCUS FEATURES

"All the guys who played Jesus were blond-haired, blue-eyed surfer guys," he says, referring to actors like Jeffrey Hunter and Max von Sydow. "When I went to film school I would say, 'Someone someday should make a movie that's representative of who he was.' That's always been in my head, and I'd still like to see that movie, because I don't think it's been made."

When filmmaker Cyrus Nowrasteh ("The Stoning of Soraya M.") approached him about the project, Columbus got excited, even though it wasn't the big, sprawling, life-spanning Jesus movie he'd always hoped for. (He says he'll probably not be the one to make that.)

That said, making a movie imagining a chunk of Jesus' life comes with great responsibility. "Because it wasn't based on scripture, we had to be extremely careful how we told the story," Columbus explains. "We surrounded ourselves with religious experts, and someone from the Vatican helped us make sure, with absolute certainty, no one would take offense to the material."

He says they succeeded. "We've shown the film to a bunch of religious leaders and they've all endorsed it. They seem to respond to the film because of its emotional intensity," he says. They don't often mind that it's rated PG-13, with scenes of brutality at the hands of the centurions. "We had to depict what was going on at the time. We couldn't make an R-rated version, for obvious reasons. It has a lot of integrity because of that. It's not watered down."

On 'Gremlins'

Speaking of PG-13, Columbus is partially responsible for the rating. "Gremlins" was originally envisioned as a hard-R but still retained the nastiness. Columbus shifted quickly into more family-friendly fare, like "Home Alone." But he says the two films aren't that dissimilar.

"A gremlin gets blown up in a microwave, but [in "Home Alone"] an iron falls down a laundry chute and does not kill a guy," he explains, laughing. He says that part of him never really went away.

"There's a dark side to all my stuff," he says. "Even '[Mrs.] Doubtfire' deals with divorce and we don't clean it up at the end. They stay divorced and they don't get back together in a Disney way. The 'Potter' films, I knew getting into them they would get progressively darker as they went along. That dark side is still very appealing to me."

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MAKE HEALTHY YOUR NEW HAPPY

The new fitness craze sweeping Hollywood

Jessica Biel, Justin Timberlake, Ashley Greene and Hilary Duff all swear by it.

EMILY LAURENCE
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You think your trainer has it tough? It's Jason Walsh's job to get celebrities in shape for blockbuster roles. He prepped Matt Damon for the "Bourne" movies, Bradley Cooper for "American Sniper" and, most recently, John Krasinski for "13 Hours."

"It's a huge responsibility," Walsh tells us. "You never know how things are going to end up and if you hurt someone or stall the process of production, that's millions of dollars lost." But good news for anyone who has something about their body they want to fix: Even celebrities have body issues. Walsh tells us that 100 percent of his celeb clients come to him with an issue that needs addressing. Yes, including Bradley Cooper. We got Walsh to reveal what really works:

Skip the bootcamp

Years ago, Walsh noticed that his clients kept coming to him with the same problem: Their bodies were overworked from group workout classes — especially trendy bootcamp style ones.

He went on a mission to find a way to provide an intense workout without overworking any one area of the body and found the solution in a versaclimber, a vertical climbing cardio machine that works the upper and lower body.

"The crawling motion — which we've progressed from as babies — balances the body out," Walsh explains. "It's low impact and super effective." It's also not easy. Climbing requires a lot of oxygen and energy, which Walsh says makes people burn twice as many calories as they would doing another type of workout.

Making it fun

After his "a-ha" moment with the versaclimber, Walsh created routines and group classes using the versaclimber. He opened a fitness studio, Rise Nation, in Hollywood and is hoping to open a New York City location in the next couple years.

Music plays a huge role into Rise Nation. "I was at a concert and just blown away by the visuals," Walsh says. "I was jumping around and having a good time and by the end, I was soaking wet with sweat. I didn't even realize it was a workout because I was having such a good time."

To mirror that in his Rise Nation classes, the versaclimber routines he uses in the class are timed to music and he also uses various lighting concepts to create a club-like environment that can serve as a distraction to the intense workout. Hey, whatever gets your mind off of the intensity, right?

How to get the same results

Versaclimbers take up a lot of room, are expensive and not many gyms have them, but the same concept can be applied with indoor rock climbing, which is available in most cities. With so many celebrities turning to these climbing-based moves, we predict rock climbing to be one of the year's biggest fitness trends.

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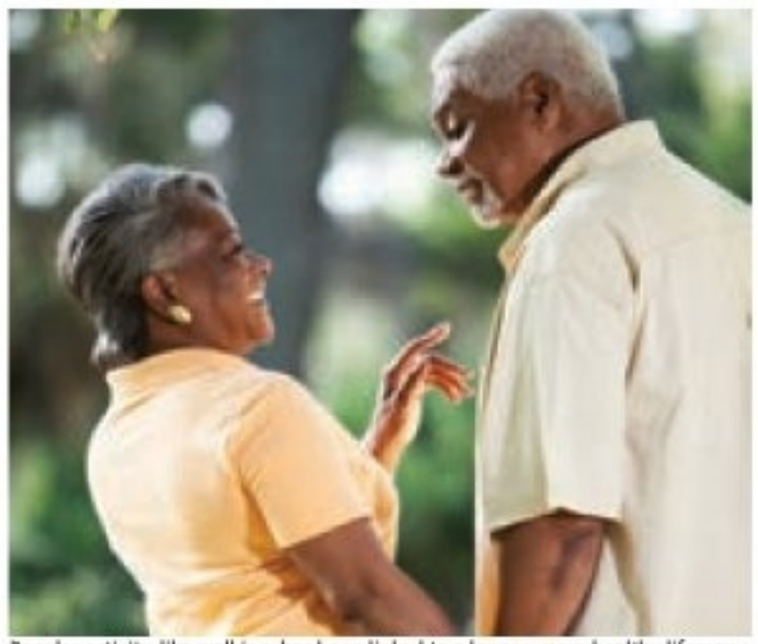
3 Secrets to living longer

It's all about "healthspan" not lifespan.

EMILY LAURENCE
@EmLaurence
emily.laurence@metro.us

Scientists can clone goats, but we are still searching for the fountain of youth. Journalist Bill Gifford tackles why we age and what to do about it in his new book, "Spring Chicken." But for him, the focus should be on "healthspan" (the number of healthy years), not lifespan. "We need to think about how to keep people healthy for longer. You want to enjoy life, not just be alive," he says. Here, he shares ways to do exactly that.



Regular activity, like walking, has been linked to a longer, more healthy lifespan. ISTOCK

1 Take the stairs

"One thing I noticed when I was following these scientists around [while researching and interviewing them for the book] was that they never took the elevator," Gifford says. And for good reason. This shouldn't come as a shocker, but an active lifestyle is linked to a longer lifespan. Gifford says it's not necessarily exercising that's important, but building more activity into your daily life.

"As Americans, we have to find the closest parking spot when we're going out to eat. But what if you parked three blocks away or at the far end of the parking lot? Then you built in a nice little walk for before and after dinner," he says. Small lifestyle changes like this have a big impact. So, if you live on the fifth floor of a walk-up, be thankful.

2 Load up on vitamin D

While writing his book, Gifford heavily researched which supplements and vitamins were actually worth taking — and which ones weren't. If you're loading up on antioxidants thinking they will reverse the aging process: stop. "The idea of taking antioxidants is based on a theory some guy came up with years ago that nobody but him was able to prove," Gifford says.

Instead, load up on vitamin D, which has been found to slow down aging in worms. (Hey, it's a start.) One study Gifford cites in his book found that 70 percent of white Americans and 97 percent of black Americans aren't getting enough vitamin D, which is essential for strong bones and overall physical health. A lack of vitamin D has also been linked to developing Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. So, drink your milk or pop a vitamin.

3 Cut back on sugar

Of the four, what Gifford calls, "horsemen of the geriatric apocalypse" — Alzheimer's, cancer, heart disease and diabetes — he says diabetes is the big one to beat. "It increases your risk for the other three horsemen and many other terrible diseases of aging," Gifford says.

For many, avoiding diabetes is no problem because it is not part of their family history and they inherently have low blood sugar. But if you do have a family history of diabetes, Gifford strongly suggests limiting your sugar and carbohydrate intake to reduce your risk.

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Glen Macnow is hopeful that the Eagles will attend to their offensive line when they pick at No. 8. GETTY IMAGES

Of all Howie Roseman's dramatic moves in the past 10 weeks, none tops his heist of the Dolphins, dumping two unwanted players while moving from 13th to eighth in the draft.

NFL draft wizard Mike Mayock joined Ray Didinger and me on WIP Sunday and projected that the Eagles choice at No. 8 will boil down to one or two of these studs: Notre Dame tackle Ronnie Stanley, Ohio State RB Ezekiel Elliott, UCLA linebacker Myles Jack or Florida cornerback Vernon Hargreaves III.

I'd be delighted with any, but happiest if the 320-pound Stanley ends up in midnight green. The Eagles could then convert the aging Jason Peters to guard. While current reports have Peters resisting such a move, he did concede last August that he expects to finish his career inside.

If it works out that way, it would give the Birds an imposing left-to-right lineup of Lane Johnson, Peters, Jason Kelce, free agent guard Brandon Brooks and Stanley. Even Sam Bradford could look good behind that protection.

Flyers a hot ticket again

One great aspect of the NHL is that a sluggish team can catch fire at season's end and make an unexpected deep run in the postseason. The 2010 Flyers snuck into the playoffs in a shootout after the last game. They advanced all the way to Game 6 of the Cup Finals, when goalie Michael Leighton ended the dream by allowing a soft one over his shoulder.

Can they find late magic this year? Logic says the Flyers don't have the secondary scoring, frontline defense or playoff-proven goaltending. But, as I said, it's the NHL. For now, enjoy Tuesday's home contest against the Red Wings, the first meaningful pro sports event we've had in town this year. It's good, for once, to focus on what one of our teams is actually playing, rather than what they'll do in the offseason.

Grumpy old sports stars

I want to produce a reality TV show in which Goose Gossage, Oscar Robertson, Mike Ditka and Don Cherry sit around bitching while watching live sports. This follows, of course, Gossage's rant last week scorching bat flippers and stats geeks, and Robertson's recent dismissal of Steph Curry's greatness. The Grumpy Old Men could point to the screen and rail against anyone born after 1970.

What it is about old-timers that spurs them to condemn the next generation as soft prima donnas? We all fear growing old. I'm sure the sense of irrelevance is compounded when you once owned that spotlight.

The Hawks got screwed

I'm a Big Five fan, but always partial to St. Joe's, where I've taught writing. With that disclaimer, can we agree the Hawks got hosed on Selection Sunday?

Phil Martelli's team went 27-7, won the A-10 title, finished with an RPI of 23 and went 10-2 on road campuses. For that, they got an eight seed and a schlep to Spokane, Washington, where they're a first-round underdog to Cincinnati. If they win that game, they'll face first-seed Oregon.

The Hawks deserved better.

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SOUTH

1 Kansas (30-4)
16 Austin Peay (18-17)
8 Colorado (22-11)
9 Connecticut (24-10)
5 Maryland (25-8)
12 South Dakota State (26-7)
4 California (23-10)
13 Hawaii (27-5)
6 Arizona (25-8)
11 Vanderbilt (19-13)/ Wichita State (24-8)
3 Miami (25-7)
14 Buffalo (20-14)
7 Iowa (21-10)
10 Temple (21-22)
2 Villanova (29-5)
15 UNC Asheville (22-11)

EAST

North Carolina (28-6) **1**
FGCU (20-13)/ Fairleigh Dickinson (18-4) **16**
USC (21-12) **8**
Providence (23-10) **9**
Indiana (25-7) **5**
Chattanooga (29-5) **12**
Kentucky (26-8) **4**
Stony Brook (26-6) **13**
Notre Dame (21-11) **6**
Michigan (22-12)/ Tulsa (20-11) **11**
West Virginia (26-8) **3**
Stephen F. Austin (27-5) **14**
Wisconsin (20-12) **7**
Pittsburgh (21-22) **10**
Xavier (27-5) **2**
Weber State (26-8) **15**

WEST

1 Oregon (28-6)
16 Holy Cross (14-19) Southern (22-12)
8 St. Joseph's (27-7)
9 Cincinnati (22-10)
5 Baylor (22-11)
12 Yale (22-6)
4 Duke (23-10)
13 UNC Wilmington (25-7)
6 Texas (20-12)
11 Northern Iowa (22-12)
3 Texas A&M (26-8)
14 Green Bay (23-12)
7 Oregon State (19-12)
10 Virginia Commonwealth (24-10)
2 Oklahoma (25-7)
15 CSU Bakersfield (24-8)

MIDWEST

Virginia (26-7) **1**
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Purdue (26-8) **5**
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Keep an eye on these elite players

Who will be March Madness' next Stephen Curry?

MATTHEW BURKE
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Before Stephen Curry was winning NBA titles and generally changing the face of pro basketball as we know it, he was the darling of the Big Dance. In 2008, Curry led tiny Davidson to upset victories over Gonzaga, Georgetown and Wisconsin before narrowly falling to eventual national champion Kansas. Here are the candidates most likely to make multiple appearances in the 2016 edition of "One Shining Moment:"

Grayson Allen could be college hoops' most-improved player. GETTY IMAGES

Buddy Hield

Hield is most likely going to walk away with the National Player of the Year award and he's already shown the ability to create magic. Oklahoma's two-guard pumped in 46 points in a game against Kansas earlier this season.

Denzel Valentine

The smooth senior guard is averaging 19.4 points per game for Michigan State, the No. 2 seed in the Midwest region. In 2000, home-state hero Mateen Cleaves led the Spartans to a national title. Can Valentine bring the title home to Lansing for the first time in 16 years?

Josh Hart

Unlike the NBA, you can still win a title without having one of the top two or three players in the sport. Josh Hart (15.5), Kris Jenkins (13.3) and Ryan Arcidiacono (11.9) all average double-figures in points for Villanova. If the dream All-Philly matchup of Nova vs. Temple goes down in Round 2, watch for Hart to avenge his season-low four points against Temple in February.

Grayson Allen

It'd be easy to see an "I hate Grayson Allen" documentary popping up in 20 years or so as the Duke star has taken the Christian Laettner/JJ Redick/Jon Scheyer torch as the most hated player in America. The dirty (emphasis on dirty) little secret here is that Allen can play, as he saw his scoring average jump 17.2 points this season to 21.6 per game.

Kris Dunn

Dunn is getting NBA lottery buzz as he's the best playmaker in this tournament. He reads the floor like no other and if the old March Madness cliché of "it's a guard's tournament" is true, then look for Dunn to lead ninth-seeded Providence past USC in the first round and maybe — just maybe — past No. 1 seed North Carolina.

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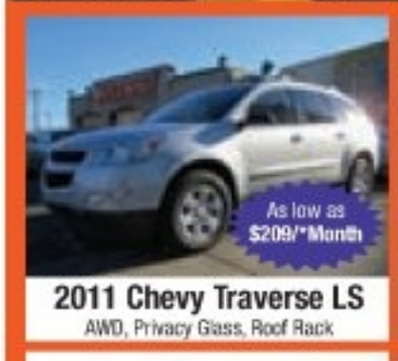
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Elliot, Eagles a perfect match

Should the Eagles nab the highly-touted Ohio State running back with the No. 8 overall pick?

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When Philly traded up from No. 13 to No. 8 overall in the 2016 NFL Draft, they knew entering the top 10 meant a chance at an elite, difference-making athlete.

Looking at the "Big Board" there are a handful of college stars who make sense for the Eagles, but no name jumps out more than that of Ohio State's Ezekiel Elliot.

The Eagles still have two talented running backs on their roster in Darren Sproles and Ryan Mathews.

Their two backs are talented and bring different things to the table, with Sproles boasting elite quickness and a low center of gravity and Mathews acting as a strong, speedy downhill runner.

Both have a history of being banged up, and in Mathews case being injury-prone. So are the Birds going to stay put? Or is Elliot a reasonable draftee if he's on the board when Philly is on the clock?

"You can play with the two guys you have," Eagles head coach Doug Pederson said last week. "We also have some young guys on the roster. You're still going to look, whether you still have some free agency left, you still have opportunities possibly in the NFL Draft coming up next month. You're going to need a few more bodies at that position. Going forward, if you play with two the entire season you might be a little thin. You have to get some depth there."

If the Eagles look for a running back in the draft, there is no better choice than Ezekiel Elliot. GETTY IMAGES

In true Pederson style — very noncommittal but seems to lean in the direction of "yes, we need more running back depth desperately." However they also have areas of need to address like offensive line and cornerback.

Adding Elliot would put the rookie in a perfect situation where he can get his feet wet, learn from talented veterans but not be relied upon to carry the entire running attack.

In the Big 10, Elliot had a legendary season in 2014, rushing for more than 200 yards in three straight games — the Big Ten Championship game vs. Wisconsin (220 yards), Sugar Bowl vs. Alabama (230) and National Championship game vs. Oregon (246). In all, he eclipsed 1,800 yards that season.

In 2015, he ran for more than 1,800 yards again and during last month's NFL combine ran a solid 4.47 40-yard dash. He is known for his emotional passion for the game, and will need to improve as a receiver once he makes the leap to the pros.

NFLDraftScout.com has Elliot listed as the best running back in the draft and No. 9 overall prospect.

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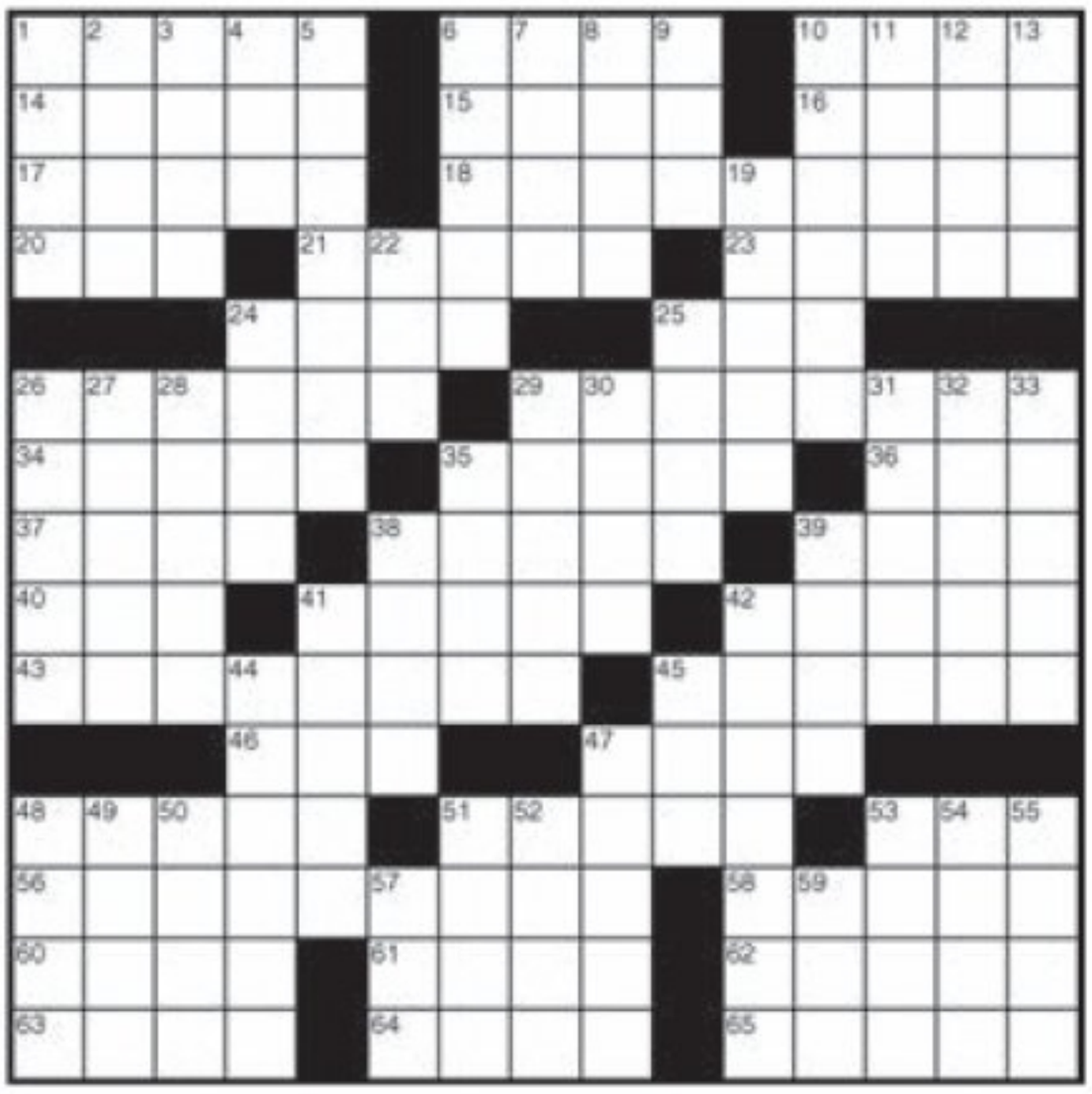

Across

1 Muff
6 Chemists' lairs
10 It had three parts
14 BP mergee
15 Non-flying birds
16 — spumante
17 Tuxedo trim
18 Night lighters
20 Um cousins
21 Western
23 Sunday dinner
24 WWW addresses
25 Van — Waals force
26 Woodworking tool
29 Makes a line (2 wds.)
34 Dentist's request
35 Feinted
36 Amt.
37 Amtrak driver
38 Swain
39 California's — Woods
40 Tokyo, to shoguns
41 Nut holders
42 Hippie greeting
43 Propose (2 wds.)
45 Extra levy
46 Cl-, e.g.
47 Distance measure
48 Power source
51 Cuffs
53 Society column word
56 Dismiss (2 wds.)
58 Teen bane
60 Raison d' —
61 Early movie vamp
62 Shinbone
63 Much loved
64 Comes to a halt
65 Palette adjunct

Down

1 Pedestal
2 Bradley or Sharif
3 Small fry
4 201, to Cato
5 Award recipient
6 Some punches
7 Yves' girlfriend
8 Laird's accent
9 Wind dir.
10 In large supply
11 Three oceans touch it
12 Navajo foes
13 Memory jogger
19 Jung contemporary
22 Give it your —
24 Ex-superpower
25 Hoofed animal
26 Obnoxious one
27 Rama devotee
28 Gold brick
29 "— the raven"
30 Luau strings
31 Hunker down
32 Carthage neighbor
33 Test-tube glass
35 Nasty shock
38 Frazzled
39 Like a pittance
41 Kiosk
42 Throb
44 Digit
45 Not guzzle
47 Chichen Itza dwellers
48 Answered a judge
49 Behind schedule
50 Mystique
51 Ballet lake
52 Piecrust ingredient
53 Gists
54 Mr. Wiesel
55 Term paper abbr. (2 wds.)
57 Honest prez
59 Width of a cir.

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easy

5				3		7	6	
	2		1		7		3	
	9	7	4				8	
		2			4			
			8	1	5			
			6			8		
	1				3	6	7	
	3		7		2		5	
	7	6		8				2

hard

						6		
		9	4				8	3
			9	6		5		4
9		3	8					5
	6		7		9		1	
2					4	9		8
7		2		9	5			
5	9				6	7		
		6						

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries An insightful approach to every situation will be required. Say little while gathering facts. Uncertainty will cost you, so do your research. Hard work will help you avoid trouble.

Taurus Speak up if you think it will help a situation or project you are involved in. Reveal your feelings, intentions and plans for the future. Love is highlighted.

Gemini Emotions will be difficult to control. Make an effort to be mindful of others and to keep what's happening around you in perspective. Make personal change your focus.

Cancer Find something to do that is geared to increasing knowledge or discovering more about different cultures. An opportunity will come from an unexpected and unusual source.

Leo Search for adventure via travel, meeting new people or getting involved in something that you feel strongly about. You can bring about positive change if you are dedicated.

Virgo Refuse to let anyone goad you into an emotional squabble. Put your time and effort into achieving greater stability instead of squandering your energy on excess.

Libra Don't hem and haw when you should be taking ownership of your words. It's up to you to bring about positive change. Use discipline and enthusiasm to reach your expectations.

Scorpio You should include a loved one or close ally in your plans. Don't be daunted by changes unfolding around you at work. Make love and romance a priority.

Sagittarius You will experience setbacks if you aren't prepared to move forward. Don't leave matters to chance. It's important to know exactly where you stand financially and emotionally.

Capricorn Getting together with people and sharing ideas and plans will lead to an interesting turn of events. Romance and a celebration will bring you closer to someone you love.

Aquarius If you use common sense and diplomacy, you will excel. Present what you have to offer and make suggestions that will bring about the changes you want to see unfold.

Pisces Keep personal matters a secret. Don't let anything interfere with your productivity or common sense when it comes to business. Accept the inevitable. EUGENIA LAST

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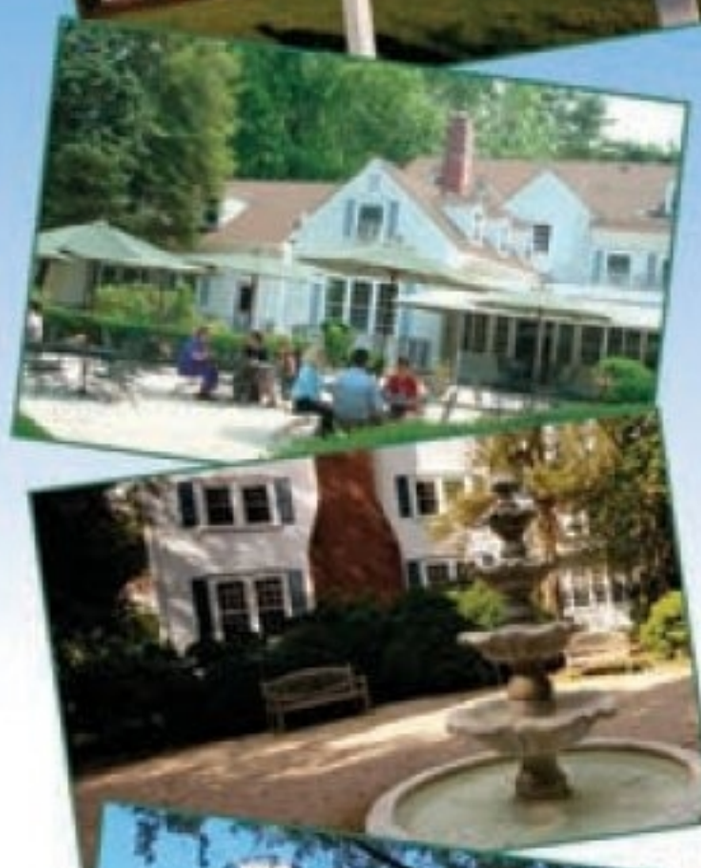

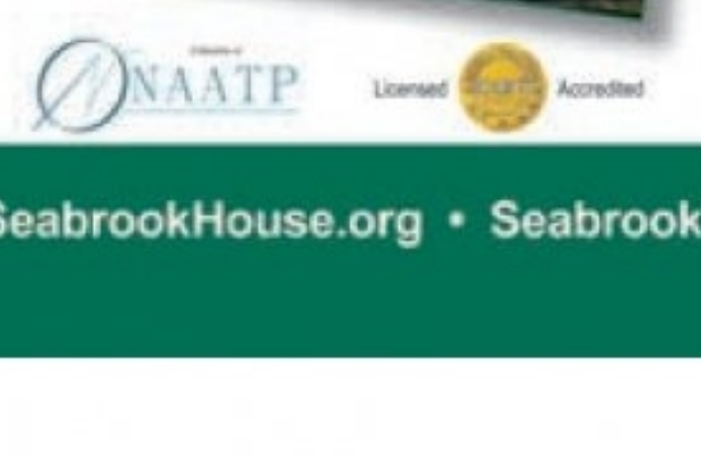

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